CHAPTER 5

WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE LOWER FRENCH BROAD RIVER WATERSHED

5.1. BACKGROUND. The Watershed Approach relies on participation at the federal, state, local and nongovernmental levels to be successful. Two types of partnerships are critical to ensure success:

- Partnerships between agencies
- Partnerships between agencies and landowners

This chapter describes both types of partnerships in the Lower French Broad River Watershed. The information presented is provided by the agencies and organizations described.

5.2. FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS.

5.2.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides technical assistance, information, and advice to citizens in their efforts to conserve soil, water, plant, animal, and air resources on private lands.

Performance Results System (PRS) is a Web-based database application providing USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, conservation partners, and the public fast and easy access to accomplishments and progress toward strategies and performance. The PRS may be viewed at http://prms.nrcs.usda.gov/prs. From the opening menu, select "Reports" in the top tool bar. You will select the time period that you are interested in and the conservation treatment of interest on the page that comes up. Depending on the time period of interest, you will have various report options to choose from, such as location, reporting period and program involved in the reporting. You may be required to "refresh" the page in order to get the current report to come up.

The data can be used to determine broad distribution trends in service provided to customers by NRCS conservation partnerships. These data do not show sufficient detail to enable evaluation of site-specific conditions (e.g., privately-owned farms and ranches) and are intended to reflect general trends.

Conservation Practice	Feet	Acres	Number
Conservation Buffers	73,807	701	
Erosion Control		999	
Nutrient Management		7,368	
Pest Management		5,978	
Grazing / Forages	24,540	5,694	
Tree and Shrub Practices		1,624	
Tillage and Cropping		2,341	
Waste Management Systems			2
Wildlife Habitat Management		3437	
Wetlands			11
Water Supply	2,170		57

Table 5-1. Landowner Conservation Practices in Partnership with NRCS in the Lower French Broad River Watershed. *Data are from PRMS for October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2006 reporting period. More information is provided in Appendix V.*

5.2.B. United States Geological Survey – Tennessee Water Science Center Programs. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) provides relevant and objective scientific information and data for public use in evaluation of the quantity, quality, and use of the Nation's water resources. National USGS water resource assessments include the National Streamflow Information Program (http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/), National Atmospheric Deposition Network (http://bqs.usgs.gov/acidrain/), the National Stream Quality Accounting Network (http://water.usgs.gov/nasqan/), and the National Water-Quality Assessment Program (http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa). For a national overview of USGS water resources programs, please visit http://water.usgs.gov.

In addition to national assessments, the USGS also conducts hydrologic investigations and data collection in cooperation with numerous federal, state, and local agencies to address issues of national, regional, and local concern. Hydrologic investigations conducted by the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center address scientific questions pertaining to five general thematic topics:

1. Water Use and Availability,
2. Landforms and Ecology,
3. Watersheds and Land Use,
4. Occurrence, Fate, and Transport of Contaminants, and
5. Floods and Droughts.

In support of these investigations, the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center records streamflow continuously at more than 100 gaging stations, makes instantaneous measurements of streamflow at numerous other locations as needed or requested, monitors ground-water levels Statewide, and analyzes the physical, chemical, and biologic characteristics of surface and ground waters. In addition, the Water Science Center compiles annual water-use records for the State of Tennessee and collects a variety of data in support of National USGS baseline and other networks. More information pertaining to USGS activities in Tennessee can be accessed at http://tn.water.usgs.gov.

USGS Water Resources Information on the Internet. Real-time and historical streamflow, water-level, and water-quality data at sites operated by the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center can be accessed on-line at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tn/nwis/nwis. Data can be retrieved by county, hydrologic unit code, or major river basin using drop-down menus on the web page. For specific information or questions about USGS streamflow data, contact Donna Flohr at (615)837-4730 or dfflohr@usgs.gov. Recent USGS Tennessee Water Science Center publications can be accessed by visiting http://tn.water.usgs.gov/pubpg.html. A searchable bibliographic database is also provided for locating other USGS reports and products addressing specific scientific topics.

5.2.C. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with partners to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Sustaining our nation's fish and wildlife resources is a task that can be accomplished only through the combined efforts of governments, businesses, and private citizens. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works with state and federal agencies and tribal governments, helps corporate and private landowners conserve habitat, and cooperates with other nations to halt illegal wildlife trade. The Service also administers a Federal Aid program that distributes funds annually to States for fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, and related projects across America. The funds come from federal excise taxes on fishing, hunting, and boating equipment.

Endangered Species Program

Through the Endangered Species Program, the Service consults with other federal agencies concerning their program activities and their effects on endangered and threatened species. Other Service activities under the Endangered Species Program include the listing of rare species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the recovery of listed species. Once listed, a species is afforded the full range of protections available under the ESA, including prohibitions on killing, harming, or otherwise taking a species.

Recovery is the process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is stopped and reversed, and threats to the species' survival are eliminated, so that long-term survival in nature can be ensured. The goal of the recovery process is to restore listed species to a point where they are secure and self-sustaining in the wild and can be removed from the endangered species list. Under the ESA, the Service and National Marine Fisheries Service were delegated the responsibility of carrying out the recovery program for all listed species. One tool used by the Service to promote recovery of listed species, while minimizing regulatory burden on state and local governments and private landowners, is the designation of non-essential experimental populations.

The Service published a proposed Draft Rule on June 13, 2006, to establish non-essential experimental population status for 21 aquatic species, including 15 mussels, one snail, and five fishes, in the Lower French Broad and Lower Holston Rivers (FR 71-113, 34195-34230). The final rule is expected to be published in 2007. The following federally listed mussels are included in this proposal: Appalachian monkeyface (*Quadrula sparsa*); birdwing pearlymussel (*Conradilla caelata*); cracking pearlymussel (*Hemistena lata*); Cumberland bean (*Villosa trabalis*); Cumberland monkeyface (*Quadrula intermedia*); Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*); dromedary pearlymussel (*Dromus dromas*); fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*); fine-rayed pigtoe (*Fusconaia cuneolus*); orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*); oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*); ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*); rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*); shiny pigtoe (*Fusconaia edgariana*); and white wartyback (*Plethobasus cicatricosus*). Other aquatic species included in the proposal are Anthony's river snail (*Athearnia anthonyi)*; duskytail darter (*Etheostoma percnurum*); pygmy madtom (*Noturus stanauli*); slender chub (*Erimystax cahni*); spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*); and

yellowfin madtom (*Noturus flavipinnis*).

In an effort to preclude the listing of a rare species, the Service engages in proactive conservation efforts for unlisted species. The program covers not only formal candidates but also other rare species that are under threat. Early intervention preserves management options and minimizes the cost of recovery. In some instances, species listing can be avoided by the development of Candidate Conservation Agreements, which may remove threats facing the candidate species, and funding efforts such as the Private Stewardship Grant Program.

In a partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Natural Areas, the Service developed a State Conservation Agreement for Cave Dependent Species in Tennessee (SCA). The SCA targets unlisted but rare species and protects these species through a suite of proactive conservation agreements. The goal is to preclude the need to list these species under the ESA. This agreement covers middle and eastern Tennessee and will benefit water quality in many watersheds within the State.

This is the eighth year of a 20-year effort to release lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) into the lower French Broad and Holston Rivers. Over 51,000 have been released to date. The key partners in this effort are the Service, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Aquarium, World Wildlife Fund, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The following federally endangered (E), threatened (T), and candidate (C) species occur in the Lower French Broad River watershed: Carolina northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus*) (E); gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) (E); Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) (E); bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (T); spruce-fir moss spider (*Microhexura montivaga*) (E); snail darter (*Percina tanasi*) (T); spreading avens (*Geum radiatum*) (E); pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*) (E); and sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphyus*) (C). For a complete listing of endangered and threatened species in Tennessee, please visit the Service's website at http://www.fws.gov/cookeville/

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore historic habitat types, which benefit native fishes and wildlife. The program adheres to the concept that restoring or enhancing habitats such as wetlands or other unique habitat types will substantially benefit federal trust species on private lands by providing food and cover or other essential needs. Federal trust species include threatened and endangered species, as well as migratory birds (e.g. waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, neotropical migratory songbirds).

Participation is voluntary and various types of projects are available. Projects include livestock exclusion fencing, alternate water supply construction, streambank stabilization, restoration of native vegetation, wetland restoration/enhancement, riparian zone reforestation, and restoration of in-stream aquatic habitats.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE...

- Interested landowners contact a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist to discuss the proposed project and establish a site visit.

- A visit to the site is then used to determine which activities the landowner desires and how those activities will enhance habitat for trust resources. Technical advice on proposed activities is provided by the Service, as appropriate.

- Proposed cost estimates are discussed by the Service and landowner.

- A detailed proposal which describes the proposed activities is developed by the Service biologist and the landowner. Funds are competitive; therefore the proposal is submitted to the Service's Ecosystem team for ranking and then to the Regional Office for funding.

- After funding is approved, the landowner and the Service co-sign a Wildlife Extension Agreement (minimum 10-year duration).

- Project installation begins.

- When the project is completed, the Service reimburses the landowner after receipts and other documentation are submitted according to the Wildlife Extension Agreement.

For more information regarding the Endangered Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife programs, please contact the Cookeville Ecological Services Field Office at 931/528-6481 or visit their website at *http://www.fws.gov/cookeville/*

5.2.D. National Park Service. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) is rich with nearly 3,400 kilometers (2,100 miles) of cool and cold-water stream habitats. Of this total, 1,280 km (800 miles) support a diverse fish community. Large stream systems (4^{th}-5^{th} order) support the greatest diversity of fishes in GSMNP, including 12 families and over 60 species. Many of the fish species found in these large stream systems are excellent indicators of natural and anthropogenic environmental impacts. Large stream systems in GSMNP are sampled each fall in an attempt to provide a snapshot of the diversity of habitat and fish species found in the Park's larger stream systems. Backpack electrofishing gear and three-pass depletion estimates are used to evaluate year-class strength, reproductive success, density (# fish/100m^2), biomass (kg/ha), and other trend information.

The University of Tennessee in cooperation with the Park has conducted water quality monitoring in the Little Pigeon River watershed since 1992. These data have revealed that four streams in this area are impacted by acidic deposition and that they do not meet the pH standard for this area. As a result, these streams were included in the states 303(d) list in 2007. Park staff and staff from EPA and TDEC will have a

conference call the first week of May 2007 to determine when and how TMDL's can be completed for these streams. At this point in time, impacts of this nature seem to be limited to this watershed.

One research project conducted in this watershed by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Tennessee has produced additional disturbing results. Data from streams in the watershed show that storm events result in stream pH drops of up to two units for up to forty hours. Another project demonstrated that during a storm event, that native brook trout lose a significant amount of whole body sodium. The death of adult brook trout was not observed and chemical balance for the fish returned in about two days after the event. The impact this type of event could have on young of the year fish is unknown and future research will focus on this life history stage.

Brook trout monitoring has been conducted annually in Cosby and Rock Creeks. Data from these streams indicated that the populations are healthy and not suffering from acidic episodes. Annual changes in density and biomass indicate annual variation in these populations is mainly due to abiotic events such as droughts and floods.

For more information on biological monitoring, contact the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at grsm_smokies_information@nps.gov.

5.3. STATE PARTNERSHIPS.

5.3.A. TDEC Division of Water Supply. The Source Water Protection Program, authorized by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, outline a comprehensive plan to achieve maximum public health protection. According to the plan, it is essential that every community take these six steps:

1) Delineate the drinking water source protection area
2) Inventory known and potential sources of contamination within these areas
3) Determine the susceptibility of the water supply system to these contaminants
4) Notify and involve the public about threats identified in the contaminant source inventory and what they mean to their public water system
5) Implement management measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate threats
6) Develop contingency planning strategies to deal with water supply contamination or service interruption emergencies (including natural disaster or terrorist activities).

Source water protection has a simple objective: to prevent the pollution of the lakes, rivers, streams, and ground water (wells and springs) that serve as sources of drinking water before they become contaminated. This objective requires locating and addressing potential sources of contamination to these water supplies. There is a growing recognition that effective drinking water system management includes addressing the quality and protection of the water sources.

Source Water Protection has a significant link with the Watershed Management Program goals, objectives and management strategies. Watershed Management looks at the health of the watershed as a whole in areas of discharge permitting, monitoring and protection. That same protection is important to protecting drinking water as well. Communication and coordination with a multitude of agencies is the most critical factor in the success of both Watershed Management and Source Water Protection.

Watershed management plays a role in the protection of both ground water and surface water systems. Watershed Management is particularly important in areas with karst (limestone characterized by solution features such as caves and sinkholes as well as disappearing streams and springs), since the differentiation between ground water and surface water is sometimes nearly impossible. What is surface water can become ground water in the distance of a few feet and vice versa.

Source water protection is not a new concept, but an expansion of existing wellhead protection measures for public water systems relying on ground water to now include surface water. This approach became a national priority, backed by federal funding, when the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments (SDWA) of 1996 were enacted. Under this Act, every public drinking water system in the country is scheduled to receive an assessment of both the sources of potential contamination to its water source of the threat these sources may pose by the year 2003 (extensions were available until 2004). The assessments are intended to enhance the protection of drinking water supplies within existing programs at the federal, state and local levels. Source water

assessments were mandated and funded by Congress. Source water protection will be left up to the individual states and local governments without additional authority from Congress for that progression.

Tennessee's Wellhead Protection Rules were revised as of October 29, 2005 to include requirements for similar protection for public water systems using surface water sources under the heading of Drinking Water Source Protection Rule (1200-5-1-.34) in addition to the previous requirements for wellhead protection for public water systems using ground water sources. The rule addresses surface or ground water withdrawals in the vicinity of public water sources as well as potential contaminant sources threatening public water sources to reflect the amended prohibitions in the 2002 Amendments to the Tennessee Safe Drinking Water Act, TCA 68-221-771. There are additional reporting requirements of potential contaminant source inventories and emergency response for the public water systems as well. The Division of Water Supply will be able to use the Drinking Water Source Protection Rule to work in complimentary fashion with the Division of Water Pollution Control and other Departmental agencies in activities to protect public water sources.

As a part of the Source Water Assessment Program, public water systems are evaluated for their susceptibility to contamination. These individual source water assessments with susceptibility analyses are available to the public at:

http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws as well as other information regarding the Source Water Assessment Program and public water systems.

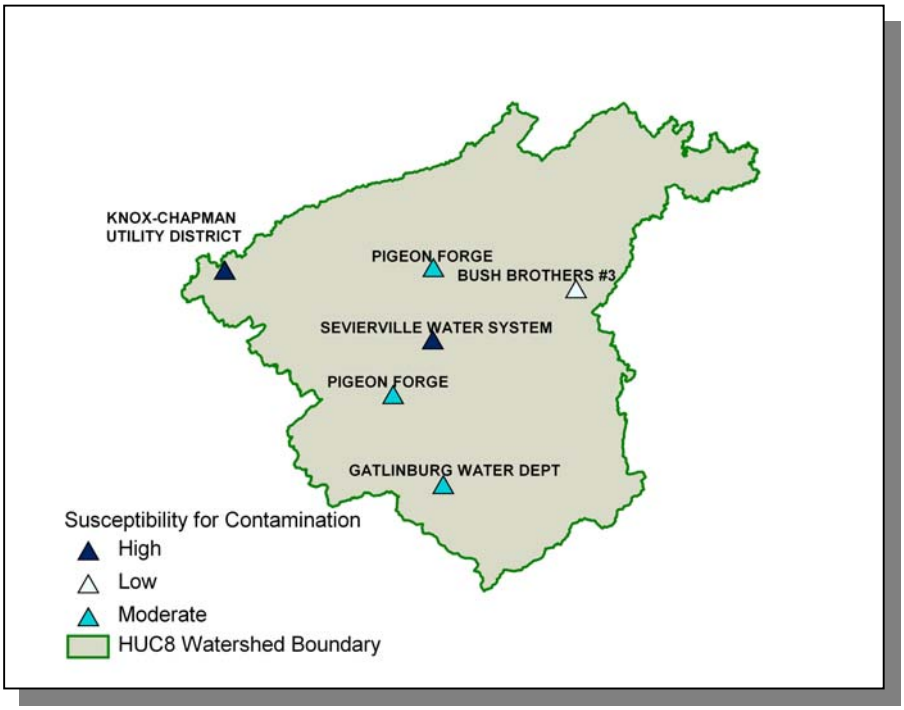

Figure 5-1. Public Water Systems Susceptible to Contamination in the Lower French Broad River Watershed.

For further discussion on ground water issues in Tennessee, the reader is referred to the Ground Water Section of the 305(b) Water Quality Report at:

http://state.tn.us/environment/dws/pdf/2006gw305b.pdf

5.3.B. TDEC Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. The Division of Water Pollution Control and the Division of Water Supply jointly administer the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. Amendment of the Federal Clean Water Act in 1987 created the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program to provide low-interest loans to cities, counties, and utility districts for the planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards annual capitalization grants to fund the program and the State of Tennessee provides a twenty-percent funding match. TDEC has awarded loans totaling over $675 million since the creation of the SRF Program. SRF loan repayments are returned to the program and used to fund future SRF loans.

SRF loans are available for planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities, or any combination thereof. Eligible projects include new construction or upgrading/expansion of existing facilities, including wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, force mains, collector sewers, interceptors, elimination of combined sewer overflows, and nonpoint source pollution remedies.

SRF loan applicants must pledge security for loan repayment, agree to adjust user rates as needed to cover debt service and fund depreciation, and maintain financial records that follow governmental accounting standards. SRF loan interest rates range from zero percent to market rate, depending on the community's per-capita income, taxable sales, and taxable property values. Most SRF loan recipients qualify for interest rates between 2 and 4 percent. Interest rates are fixed for the life of the term of the loan. The maximum loan term is 20 years or the design life of the proposed wastewater facility - whichever is shorter.

The SRF Program maintains a Priority Ranking System and Priority List for funding the planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities. The Priority Ranking List forms the basis for funding eligibility determinations and allocation of Clean Water SRF loans. Each project's priority rank is generated from specific priority ranking criteria and the proposed project is then placed on the Project Priority List. Only projects identified on the Project Priority List may be eligible for SRF loans. The process of being placed on the Project Priority List must be initiated by a written request from the potential SRF loan recipient or their engineering consultant. SRF loans are awarded to the highest priority projects that have met SRF technical, financial, and administrative requirements and are ready to proceed.

Since SRF loans include federal funds, each project requires development of a Facilities Plan, an environmental review, opportunities for minority and women business participation, a State-approved sewer use ordinance and Plan of Operation, and interim construction inspections.

For further information about Tennessee's Clean Water SRF Loan Program, contact the Clean Water SRF Loan Program by telephone at (615) 532-0445 or visit their Web site at http://tennessee.gov/environment/srf.

5.3.C. Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Water Resources Section administers the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program and the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Program. Both of these are grant programs which award funds to various agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities that undertake projects to improve the quality of Tennessee's waters and/or educate citizens about the many problems and solutions to water pollution. Both programs fund projects associated with what is commonly known as "nonpoint source pollution."

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source Program (TDA-NPS) has the responsibility for management of the federal Nonpoint Source Program, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency through the authority of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This program was created in 1987 as part of the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, and it established funding for states, territories and Indian tribes to address NPS pollution. Nonpoint source funding is used for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to stop known sources of NPS pollution, training, education, demonstrations, and water quality monitoring. The TDA-NPS Program is a non-regulatory program, promoting voluntary, incentive-based solutions to NPS problems. The TDA-NPS Program funds three types of programs:

- BMP Implementation Projects. These projects aid in the improvement of an impaired waterbody, or prevent a non-impaired water from becoming listed on the 303(d) List.

- Monitoring Projects. Up to 20% of the available grant funds are used to assist the water quality monitoring efforts in Tennessee streams, both in the state's 5-year watershed monitoring program, and also in performing before-and-after BMP installation, so that water quality improvements can be verified. Some monitoring in the Lower French Broad River Watershed was funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nonpoint Source Program (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistance Agreement C99944674-04-0 and C99944674-05-0).

- Educational Projects. The intent of educational projects funded through TDA-NPS is to raise the awareness of landowners and other citizens about practical actions that can be taken to eliminate nonpoint sources of pollution to the waters of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Program (TDA-ARCF) provides cost-share assistance to landowners across Tennessee to install BMPs that eliminate agricultural nonpoint source pollution. This assistance is provided through Soil Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Districts, Watershed Districts, universities, and other groups. Additionally, a portion of

the TDA-ARCF is used to implement information and education projects statewide, with the focus on landowners, producers, and managers of Tennessee farms and forests.

Participating contractors in the program are encouraged to develop a watershed emphasis for their individual areas of responsibility, focusing on waters listed on the Tennessee 303(d) List as being impaired by agriculture. Current guidelines for the TDA-ARCF are available. Landowners can receive up to 75% of the cost of the BMP as a reimbursement.

Since January of 1999, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Conservation have had a Memorandum of Agreement whereby complaints received by TDEC concerning agriculture or silviculture projects would be forwarded to TDA for investigation and possible correction. Should TDA be unable to obtain correction, they would assist TDEC in the enforcement against the violator. More information forestry BMPs is available at:

http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/bmpmanual.html

The complaint form is available at:

http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/forms/wqlogging_cn1274.doc

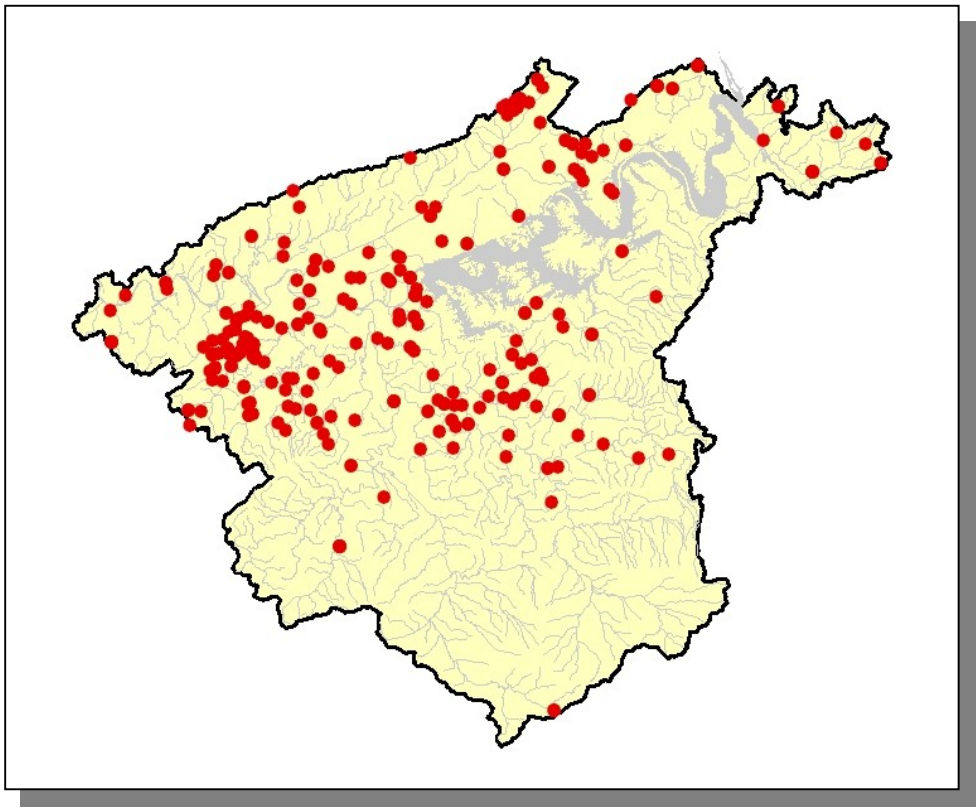

Figure 5-4. Location of BMPs installed from 2002 through 2006 in the Lower French Broad River Watershed with Financial Assistance from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source and Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Grant Programs. *More information is provided in Appendix V.*

5.3.D. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) conducts a variety of activities related to watershed conservation and management. Fish management activities include documentation of fish and aquatic life through stream sampling and stocking of both warm water and cold-water sport fish. Fish data are managed in the Geographic Information System (GIS) project called Tennessee Aquatic Database System (TADS). TWRA nongame and endangered species projects include restoration of special status fish, aquatic life, and riparian wildlife. The Agency conducts a variety of freshwater mussel management, conservation, and restoration projects including the propagation and reintroduction of species once common in Tennessee streams. TWRA has been involved in riparian conservation projects since 1991 in partnership with state and federal agencies and conservation groups.

The Tennessee Aquatic Database System (TADS)

The Tennessee Aquatic Database System (TADS) originated in the mid-1980's as a geographically referenced fisheries database maintained on ESRI's GIS Arc/Info software. It consists of mapping coverages of streams, rivers and reservoirs along with relatable fisheries data files. These database files include stream and river fish distributions, sample site data, and Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) data. The fish inventory data file contains over 15,000 records of fish occurrences from over 3,600 sample sites across the state. Fish data is referenced by river reach and a point coverage generated by latitude and longitude. Physical and chemical data and habitat evaluations from most of the sample sites have been entered into a database.

TWRA Fisheries stream survey data were consolidated, updated and entered into a Microsoft Access database to create the Tennessee Aquatic Database System 07 (TADS07), an updated version of the TADS. TADS07 contains fisheries stream survey data from 1987 to 2005.

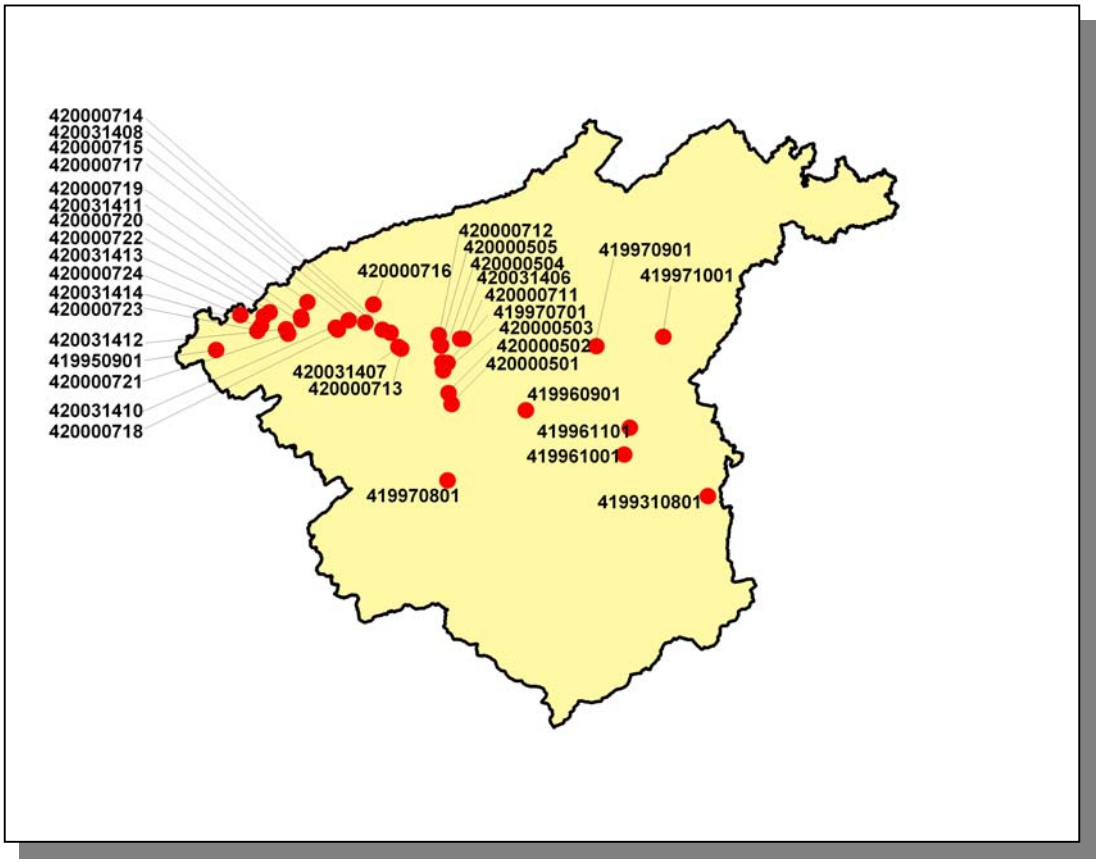

Figure 5-9. Location of TWRA TADS Sampling Sites in the Lower French Broad Watershed from 1987-2005. *More information is provided in Appendix V.*

Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

The Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), formerly known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), was developed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency with assistance from The Nature Conservancy in 2005. Congress mandated that each state and territory in the United States develop a SWAP as a requirement for continued receipt of federal State Wildlife Grant funding. These plans require the completion of 8 key elements of wildlife planning: 1) a list of animal species of greatest conservation need, 2) information about the distribution and abundance of species targets, 3) locations and relative conditions of key habitats, 4) descriptions of problems affecting target species and their habitats, 5) descriptions of conservation actions and priorities for conserving target species and habitats, 6) details for monitoring target species, conservation actions, and adaptive management, 7) discussion of plans to review the SWAP at specific intervals, and 8) information about coordination and implementation of the SWAP with major stakeholders. In Tennessee, the SWAP was integrated into a spatial model using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other database technology. Priority aquatic, terrestrial, and subterranean areas for conservation were identified across the state. Priorities were determined in the GIS model based upon relative differences in species rarity, population viability, and potential mobility of species across habitat units.

Priority problems affecting species and needed conservation actions are detailed across each region of the state. For complete information about the Tennessee SWAP, please visit: http://www.state.tn.us/twra/cwcs/cwcsindex.html to read or download the full report.

For information on these and other water resources related activities, please contact your Regional TWRA office at the following phone numbers:

West Tennessee (Region I)	1-800-372-3928
Middle Tennessee (Region II)	1-800-624-7406
Cumberland Plateau (Region III)	1-800-262-6704
East Tennessee (Region IV)	1-800-332-0900

TDD services are available at 615-781-6691.
TWRA's website is http://www.state.tn.us/twra.

5.4. LOCAL INITIATIVES.

5.4.A. French Broad Preservation Association The Mission of the French Broad Preservation Association is: "To preserve and enhance the environmental quality, scenic beauty, rural heritage and historic resources of the French Broad River communities."

The FBPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has regular monthly meetings the second Monday of every month at the Historic Riverdale School located at 7009 Thorn Grove Pike in Knoxville. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. and members as well as non-members are invited to attend. Individuals or groups can obtain memberships at any time.

The French Broad corridor is one of the best-preserved cultural landscapes in Knox County and East Tennessee. It is an area that truly recognizes itself as a special community in the stewardship of landowners who are conserving their lands for future generations. With Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge at one end of this part of the corridor to Ijams Nature Center at the other end, it is a stretch of river that highlights the true beauty of our rural and agricultural heritage.

The FBPA is working with Knox county on building another put-in/take-out ramp along Kodak Road that will have picnic and bathroom facilities. The Cruze Family has donated the property and FBPA is in the process of getting final deeds changed to Knox County Parks and Recreation so FBPA can begin construction.

The FBPA hosts river floats on the French Broad River and also hosts river cleanup days.

The FBPA is presently developing a website.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call or email Elaine Clark for further details. Ms. Clark may be reached at 865.599.2473 or eclark@nxs.net.

5.4.B. The Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council.

COUNCIL OVERVIEW
The Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area encompasses both the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee, as well as parts of the French Broad, Nolichucky, Little Tennessee, and Lower French Broad River basins. The counties included in this RC&D area are as follows: Blount, Cocke, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, and Sevier. The area includes approximately 1,629,440 acres – including parts of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee National Forest. The area is bordered by the mountains of North Carolina along the southeast, by Greene County (TN) on the northeast, by the Lower French Broad River to the north, and by Anderson, Roane, and Loudon counties to the west. The area has a very diverse lane use and geology. This is a rugged, rural landscape that is dominated by the Appalachian Mountains. The severely dissected ridges and narrow valleys that formed the western

frontier of early America continue to influence transportation, commerce, agriculture, and land use.

The population of the six county region is approximately 712,171 according to an estimated figure obtained by the US Census Bureau in 2002. Farming enterprises include beef cattle, tobacco, dairy, poultry, and specialty crops. The vast majority of farmers are part-time within this region. Most jobs are in a variety of service trades (16.7%) and manufacturing facilities (21.3%). The average per capita income for the area in 1999 was $17,970, with the median household income calculated to be $33,460 per year. Unemployment across the area was calculated at a rate of 5.7%.

The Smoky Mountain RC&D Area received its charter in June 1997, as well as successfully obtained its 501(c)(3) tax status with the Internal Revenue Service. At this point, the Council consisted of only five counties (Blount, Cocke, Hamblen, Jefferson, and Sevier). The Council's borders were expanded to include Knox County in late 2004.

In addition, the Smoky Mountain RC&D Council has received grants from the USDA Forest Service, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Valley Authority, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee Arts Commission, and the USDA – Rural Development. The funds generated from these grantors have been (and will be) used to initiate and complete projects that will help to meet the goals and objectives of our council.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Smoky Mountain RC&D Council and its programs is to empower residents to improve their quality of life through economic and community development while sustaining the natural resources of the area.

COUNCIL GOALS

Goal A: Expand sustainable economic development while conserving the area's natural resources.

Goal B: Promote new and innovative entrepreneurial opportunities to individuals within the RC&D Area.

Goal C: Educate individuals within the area on the importance of clean drinking water, as well as on the value of teaching water quality – in general terms.

Goal D: Reach 25% of the RC&D Area population with educational programs by 2010, which will empower them with the knowledge and desire to improve their quality of life.

RECENT PROJECTS in the Lower French Broad River Watershed:

- Installed a critical area treatment and stream channel stabilization for Sevier County in order to enhance water quality.
- Installed livestock watering system with trough and tank on Malcolm Smith farm to enhance water quality.

- Installed a heavy use area protection pad on Marshall Dykes to enhance water quality and to reduce erosion.
- Installed bank restoration project with riprap and geotextile fabric with steep bank vegetation at the city park to enhance water quality and control erosion from bank eroding away.
- Installed a steep bank stabilization project at Pine Mountain to stop erosion.
- Installed a lined waterway at the Hodson Hicks Industrial Park to enhance water quality.
- Installed a bioengineering and stream bank stabilization project at Markhill Village Retirement Center to enhance water quality and reduce erosion.

Contact:
Eston Williams
Smoky Mountain RC&D Council
1715 Garden Village Drive
White Pine, Tennessee 37890-3148
Phone: 865-674-8890
Email: eston.williams@tn.usda.gov